



YoungStar

Frequently Asked Questions: Child Health & Well-Being

February 5, 2016

Note: Almost all questions have been revised since June 10, 2013; questions that have been substantially revised or added since the last update are highlighted.

YoungStar is a 5 Star quality rating and improvement system that supports child care and school-age care providers in the areas of education, learning environment & curriculum, business & professional practices and the health & well-being of children. Through this rating system the state addresses several key issues in Wisconsin's child care system. YoungStar:

- Focuses on improving outcomes for children by improving the overall quality of care
- Creates multiple pathways to professional development opportunities and better quality for child care and school-age programs
- Creates a clear, understandable tool for parents to choose quality child care
- Creates incentives and provides support for programs to improve services, particularly for low-income children
- Improves accountability for the Wisconsin Shares system

Questions on YoungStar Evaluation Criteria: Child Health & Well-Being

(These questions are excerpted from the comprehensive YoungStar FAQ, and their numbers remain the same.)

Child Health & Well-Being

H&W-1. Are there any requirements for staff training in special education?

H&W-2. Are programs that are trained to serve children with physical, developmental, or social and emotional special needs eligible to receive increased points?

H&W-3. Are programs that serve healthy meals and snacks, but do not participate or are not eligible to participate in the CACFP, eligible to receive a YoungStar point?

H&W-4. What happens to programs that have their CACFP participation revoked or suspended?

H&W-5. Does my program need both an internal coach and an external coach for implementation of the Wisconsin Pyramid Model?

H&W-6. What courses count for the Strengthening Families/Darkness to Light Training indicator(D.1.4)?

Learning Environment and Curriculum

LRN-4. What are some good resources to help my program take advantage of the outdoors?

Accreditation

ACC-3. Do accredited programs need to supply a person who is trained in the Wisconsin Pyramid Model, PBIS, Tribes® TLC, or Guiding Children's Behavior in School-Age Programs?

Answers about YoungStar Evaluation Criteria: Child Health & Well-Being

H&W-1. Are there any requirements for staff training in special education?

There are no requirements; however, YoungStar gives one to two optional points to programs if a percentage of staff has either The Registry Inclusion Credential or Wisconsin Pyramid Model training. Each program's detailed point rating is available on the YoungStar search site, and families can access these details to see if those optional points have been earned. Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies can now refer parents to child care, school-age programs, and day camps appropriate for their children with special needs.

For more resources on Early Childhood Inclusion, visit
<http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/default.htm>

H&W-2. Are programs that are trained to serve children with physical, developmental, or social and emotional special needs eligible to receive increased points?

Programs that complete training in inclusive child care and supporting children's optimal development can receive points. Points may be earned if staff complete specialized training including the Inclusion Credential, inclusion training with documentation of competencies targeted, and/or training on the Wisconsin Pyramid Model, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Guiding Children's Behavior in School-Age Programs, or Tribes® TLC.

Note on the Wisconsin Pyramid Model and PBIS: The Wisconsin Pyramid Model is aligned with the PBIS model. Both models provide a multi-level system of support and a developmentally appropriate, evidence-based framework to promote social and emotional competence in children. Both models offer guidance for all children at the universal level with more intensive interventions for children needing targeted and individualized support. However, the Wisconsin Pyramid Model focuses on young children ages birth to 5, while PBIS is often used in public schools.

Wisconsin Pyramid Model: <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/social-emotional-competence-sefel-pyramid.php>
PBIS: <http://www.wisconsinpbisnetwork.org/>

For more resources on Early Childhood Inclusion, visit
<http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/eci/default.htm>

H&W-3. Are programs that serve healthy meals and snacks, but do not participate or are not eligible to participate in the CACFP, eligible to receive a YoungStar point?

Yes, programs demonstrating that daily nutritional meals and snacks are served to children can receive this point. The program can demonstrate that it provides well-balanced meals and snacks daily through three months of menus. Further proof may be required in some instances.

The program must also have policies and procedures to address children's allergies and accommodate dietary restrictions. This requirement applies even if there are no children in care with allergies or dietary restrictions.

H&W-4. What happens to programs that have their CACFP participation revoked or suspended?

If a program has its CACFP participation revoked or suspended, the program will lose this point for the rest of the program's current YoungStar rating cycle. The program will be eligible to earn the point again upon its next YoungStar Contract Renewal and rating if the program can demonstrate three months of healthy meals and snacks and can meet the allergy policy requirements described in the previous question.

However, programs will *not* automatically lose this point if they move in and out of CACFP simply because of changes in the enrollment of eligible children.

H&W-5. Does my program need both an internal coach and an external coach for implementation of the Wisconsin Pyramid Model?

Ideally a program would have:

- An internal coach – someone within a program who is competent with the Pyramid Model and available to support its program-wide leadership team and teachers, and
- Access to an external coach.

To find a Wisconsin Pyramid Model external coach in your area, please visit the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) webpage on the Wisconsin Pyramid Model, and go to the "Find a Trainer" tab:

<http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/social-emotional-competence-sefel-pyramid.php>

H&W-6. What courses count for the Strengthening Families/Darkness to Light Training indicator (D.1.4)?

Below is a list of courses that are accepted for this YoungStar point:

50% of the staff and the Director have one of the Registry-verified trainings/equivalencies listed below

- Strengthening Families Through Early Care and Education: Building Protective Factors with Families
- Family Service Credential
- Touchpoints Birth to Three: Your Child's Emotional and Behavioral Development
- Development-approved equivalent that demonstrates knowledge of protective factors

Director and an individual from every classroom must have one of the Registry-verified trainings listed below

- Darkness to Light (administered by a *PDAS-approved trainer*—a trainer approved by the Professional Development Approval System)
- Completion of course 10-307-167 ECE: Health, Safety, and Nutrition at a WI Technical College

For ratings occurring on or after January 1, 2016, YoungStar will no longer accept Department-approved Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) training to meet the requirements of indicator D.1.4. Programs that earned a point for D.1.4 due to having 100% of Lead Teachers/Director with CANP training will no longer earn that point when they are rated in the 2016 rating year unless the program has staff with qualifications to meet the other training options in indicator D.1.4.

Answer about YoungStar Evaluation Criteria: Child Health & Well-Being
(These questions are excerpted from the comprehensive YoungStar FAQ, and their numbers remain the same.)

LRN-4. What are some good resources to help my program take advantage of the outdoors?

Not surprisingly, you can find such resources right here in Wisconsin:

- Although some parents are concerned about their children being outside in cold weather, the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee (<http://www.sanc.org/>) says, “There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing choices.”
- The Merrimac Community Charter School in Sauk City has a wonderful garden, with students being involved in gardening *and* artwork: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Merrimac-Community-Garden/144422082250422>. (FYI: A lot of micro-grant dollars are being used by programs for gardening.)
- Pam Boulton at UW-Milwaukee (<http://www4.uwm.edu/sce/instructor.cfm?id=15385>) is a trailblazer in the field of early childhood environmental education.
- Another good person to talk with would be Carrie Morgan at the DNR (Environmental Education for Kids website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/ee/>).

Answer about Accreditation
(These questions are excerpted from the comprehensive YoungStar FAQ, and their numbers remain the same.)

ACC-3. Do accredited programs need to supply a person who is trained in the Wisconsin Pyramid Model, PBIS, Tribes® TLC, or Guiding Children’s Behavior in School-Age Programs?

No. Ongoing social emotional training is certainly *recommended* for accredited programs, but it is *not* required, and it will *not* affect an accredited program’s rating.